

81. (new) A method for sealing a passage through tissue, comprising:
providing an apparatus comprising an elongate shaft and a plug member disposed on a distal end of the elongate shaft, the plug member comprising an outer surface including a helical thread;
inserting a distal end of the plug member into the passage;
rotating the elongate shaft, thereby threading the plug member into the passage, the plug member engaging the tissue to substantially seal the passage; and
reversing rotation of the elongate shaft to back the plug member a predetermined distance away from the blood vessel.

REMARKS:

Before calculation of claim fees and before examination, Applicants request consideration of the present amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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